

Visiting Artist

Naomi Niskala, piano

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
at 4:00 pm



Arts Building
University of Alberta

Program



DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC

Program

Sonata in G Minor, Op. 22 (1833-38)

So rasch wie möglich

Andantino: Getragen

Scherzo: Sehr rasch und markiert

Rondo: Presto

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)

Shall We Dance (1994)

Robert Helps
(1928-2001)

Intermission

Sonata in B-Flat Major, D. 960 (1828)

Molto moderato

Andante sostenuto

Scherzo: Allegro vivace con delicatezza – Trio

Allegro, ma non troppo

Franz Schubert
(1797-1828)

Pianist **Naomi Niskala** has appeared as soloist and chamber musician in Europe, the United States, Canada, and Japan, and her performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio and NPR's *Performance Today*. Her competition awards have included first prize at the 1996 Kingsville International Isabel Scionti Solo Piano Competition, and a top prize at the International Stravinsky Awards Competition in Illinois. Attending two summers each at Tanglewood's Music Center and Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute, Niskala also toured on the first "Musicians from Ravinia's Steans Institute" tour with violinist Miriam Fried. She was later invited by Zarin Mehta to Israel, Turkey, and Greece to perform chamber music for a Ravinia Festival benefit. Niskala is a founding member of the Kuamni Trio for flute, cello, and piano, and is a member of the America's Dream Chamber Artists (ADCA) based in New York City. Niskala is known for her research and performance of the solo piano works of American composer Robert Helps (1928-2001), and has been invited to perform and lecture on these works at universities and halls in the United States, Canada, Japan and Germany. Her release of the first complete recordings of Helps' solo piano works on two discs with Albany Records in 2007 was met with high acclaim, and the first volume was declared one of the "2007 Best of the Year" discs by ClassicsToday. Performances during this season include a return to the Icicle Creek Music Center in Washington, the San Francisco Symphony Chamber Series at Davies Symphony Hall, and Spectrum Concerts Berlin at Philharmonie Hall.

Born to Japanese/Finnish-American parents, Niskala began studying piano at the age of three. She grew up in Rochester, New York and later Tokyo, Japan. Niskala holds degrees from the Yale School of Music, the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the New England Conservatory of Music, and also attended Tufts University. She received her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Piano Performance with Gilbert Kalish at Stony Brook, and an Artist Diploma with Claude Frank at Yale. Other teachers include Patricia Zander and Maria Luisa Faini. Niskala also studied chamber music with pianists Leon Fleisher and Peter Serkin, violinists Louis Krasner and Eugene Lehner, and bassist Julius Levine. Niskala taught on the faculties at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, Connecticut and Wesleyan University (Connecticut), and was Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of South Florida's School of Music. During the summer Niskala teaches at the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival, and she is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of North Dakota.

Upcoming Events

February

29 Friday, 8:00 pm

Music at Convocation Hall I

William Street, saxophone

Roger Admiral, piano

Allison Storochuk, clarinet

Neuwirth Verfremdung/Entfremdung

for Soprano Saxophone, Piano and

Tape; Cassidy asphyxia for solo

soprano saxophone; Kurtág Games;

Ligeti Autumn in Warsaw;

Pongrácz Concertino for saxophone

and tape; Rosse Nishi Askusa for alto
saxophone and piano;

Godin ENSO for clarinet, saxophone
and piano

Admission: \$20/adult, \$15/senior,
\$10/student

Advance tickets are available
exclusively at TIX on the Square, 420-
1757, and tickets are available at the
door

March

1 Saturday, 8:00 pm

World Music Concert

Canadian Traditional Music--Live
and Virtual

Presented by the Canadian Centre
for Ethnomusicology

For more program information call
492-0274

Admission: \$15/adult/senior,
\$10/student

Advance tickets are available
exclusively at TIX on the Square, 420-
1757, and tickets are available at the
door

3 Monday, 12:00 pm

Music at Noon, Convocation Hall

Student Recital Series

Featuring students from the

Department of Music

Free admission

3 Monday, 8:00 pm

University of Alberta and Grant

MacEwan College Jazz Bands

Tom Dust and Raymond Baril,

Directors

Salute to the Bands

A Tribute to the Great Swing Bands of
the 1930s and 1940s

Admission: \$15/adult,
\$10/student/senior

Advance tickets are available
exclusively at TIX on the Square, 420-
1757, and tickets are available at the
door

7 Friday, 8:00 pm

Kilburn Memorial Concert

Visiting Artist

Russell Braun, baritone

Franz Schubert *Winterreise*

Admission: \$20/adult, \$15/senior,
\$10/student

Advance tickets are available
exclusively at TIX on the Square, 420-
1757, and tickets are available at the
door

8 Saturday, 8:00 pm

World Music Concert

West African Music Ensemble

Robert Kpogo, Director

Admission: \$15/adult,
\$10/student/senior

Advance tickets are available
exclusively at TIX on the Square, 420-
1757, and tickets are available at the
door

Unless otherwise indicated

Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta

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and tickets are available at the door.

Please note: All concerts and events are subject to change without
notice. Please visit our Website: www.ualberta.ca/music or
call 492-0601 to confirm concerts (after office hours a recorded
message will inform you of any changes to our schedule).

